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Address of the Bishops to the General Conference-Religious Sentiment in the Lately Rebellious States-The Policy of Southern Methodism.

The following is the address of the Bish-ops of the Methodist Episcopal Church South to the General Conference now in session at New Orleans. It will be read with interest by Methodists and by all persons who are watching the progress of religious reconstruction South:
Dear Breiners:—We shall hall with feel-

ings of devout gratitude the opening of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Circumstances connected with the late unhappy war have prevented us from an earlier meeting; and now that we are permitted by Divine Providence to assemble, the important interests that will engage our attention demand that, with all sobriety and prayerfulness, we address ourselves to their consideration We have to review the operations of the church for eight years, embracing a peri-d during which important and startling events have crowded on each other 14 rapid succession. When the last General Conference closed, we anticipated an earlier reunion in this city; but the well known condition of things, at the time appointed in regular order for our meeting, precluded our convening here. And ever since, until within the last few months, it has been impracticable to call the Conference together When it was definitely decided that the Conference could not meet at the proper time and place, there being no law in the discipline authorizing the Bishops to con-vene the General Conference, and the state of the country also being such as to render t doubtful whether any considerable num-ber of the preachers could be collected together for the purpose of holding such a session if called, the Bishops, feeling the importance of wise counsel in the emergency, published a card inviting a meeting of the Bishops, book committee and others, to consult together on divers important subjects connected with the immediate interests of the church. Such a meeting was held, first at Atlanta, atterward at Macon, Ga, and then at Montgomery, Ala. In August last the Bishops alone met for con-sultation at Columbus, Ga. These various meetings were seasons of interest and profito those who attended them, and the results of our deliberations, as exhibited in the

resolutions which we published, tended greatly, as we have reason to believe, to promote the peace and prosperity of the church In order that the character of those meet ings may be clearly appreciated, we would remind you that when they were called it was distinctly stated that all of the acts of such meetings would be simply advisory.— We disclaimed all authority to take any action that should be binding on the church only as it might be approved as wise and godly. We gave such advice as we judged best for the church-in her straightened circumstances. It the annual conferences ap-proved it, then they acted in accordance with their own convictions; if not, then they simply took their own course in all matters

that came before them, without reference

to our advice. It is for the General Con

ference to decide whether we transcended our authority in convening such advisory Early during the war the bishops had to confine their Episcopal visitations to the territory east of the Mississippi river. This we deeply regretted, but in our circumstances it was unavoidable. The consequence was that the conferences west of the Mississippi were deprived of Episcopal supervision during nearly the whole period of the war. We would not, however, fail to mention Bishop Kavanaugh, residing as he did within the Federal lines, was able to the Missouri, the St. Louis and the two Kentucky conferences, and was also able to extend his visitations to the California work. The rest of the bishops were able to extend their labors to the various parts of the work within the Confederate lines. Notwithstanding the fact that our Episcopal supervision of the work has been necessarily partial, we are gratified to be lieve that the preachers have been faithful generally to the interest of the church of God. With but very few exceptions, the annual conferences have been regularly HAVING PURCHASED THE ENTIRE stock and fixtures of D. Hayden, No. 26 North High street, we are adding a held. The presiding elders and preachers have filled their appointments as of old; and, with humble gratitude to God, we

> people have attested how the Divine presence has been with us. We do not attempt in this brief address to enter into a detailed account of the general state of the work. Thank God that we have so safely passed through a most painful and fiery ordeal; that the church has preserved, under His blessing, her integrity; that she has in nowise become complicated with political affairs; but, keeping in view her own high mission, has been satisfied to per-

> mention the fact that during the trying

years through which we have passed,

gracious revivals of religion among our

form her legitimate duties. It is proper to state to you that we found it, in our judgment, needful to the interest of the work to depart in some respects from the strict letter of the law of the church in our Episcopal administration. Extraordinary exigencles required us to take this responsibility. In the journals of the an-nual conferences which will come before you, the particular instances in which we have judged it best to assume this grave responsibility will appear. In all such in-stances we wish it understood that we do not regard such departures from the law as establishing precedents for future guidance, but only as illustrating how extraordinary exigencies may make it necessary to transcend the provisions of even the most whole some human regulations. From this experience, however, the General Conference may find suggestions that are valuable to guide it in providing, as far as practicable,

for contingencies in the future. It would have been gratifying to us if we had been able to bear the expense of more extensive travel through the work; but, in the impoverished state of the church, and especially in the absence of any provision for more than a bare support of the bishops, this was impossible. This fact, we hope, will be suggestive to your body. In August last we deemed it prudent to

issue a "Pastoral Address to the Preachers and Members of the Church," reminding them of their duty as Christian citizens. and giving such advice as seemed to us appropriate to the peculiar circumstances of the times. As that address has been extensively published, we deem its formal transmission to you with this communication unnecessary, and will only ask your attention to such parts of it as we may find it proper to recapitulate on particular points at this time.

The publishing interests of the church suffered greatly in consequence of the war. The book concern will require your eareful consideration, and some important change in your plan of operation may be needful for its future efficiency; of this, however, you will be better prepared to judge when you have heard the report of THOUSE AND LOTS SITUATED ON judge when you have heard the report of the Johnstown road just in the rear of the Lanatic Assum. For terms inquire of James G guilt, Magor of the City of clumbus and while we regard them as in a high decomed the revival of our church papers, and while we regard them as in a high de-

gree creditable to the church, we would | respectfully submit whether it would not be best to unite conferences in the publication of a fewer number in order that they may be better supported and still further improved.

Our missionary work, once the glory of our church, has been well nigh ruined. The China mission still lives and needs your fostering care. Although the financial condition of the country at present forbids the expectations of large collections, yet we may make prospective arrangements for doing a great work in that extensive

field. The interest or the colored population bounds have deserved and received a large share of our labors. We have expended our means and strength, liberally and paour means and strength, liberally and patiently, for many years, for their salvation and improvement; and if, in anywise, our conduct has not been appreciated by some on earth, nevertheless, our witness is on And now dear brethren, in conclusion. on earth, nevertheless, our witness is on high and our reward is in heaven. It is allow us affectionately to remind you of graceful to our own feelings to know that, the solemn responsibility that rests upon it the colored people do not remain under you as delegates representing the affairs of our pastoral caré, their departure reflects our beloved Zion. no discredit upon our labors in their be-half, and is necessitated by no indifference on our part for their welfare. Many of thoroughly into the particular considerathem will probably unite with the African Methodist Episcopal Church, some of them with the Northern Methodist Church, while from our minds all prejudices that would

church, will remain with us. Let us be content to leave to Providence Let us be content to leave to Providence to vindicate in due time our scriptural relation to the interest of the colored people.

Dure, and peaceable, and gentle; in honor preferring one another; in brotherly kind-ness and charity, and with an eye single to For those who remain with us the church should provide generously everything im-portant to their religious culture. Convinced that your body takes the deepest interest in this subject, and will give it your special attention, we deem it only needful to speak of it in this general and suggestive form; and especially as the bishops, in their pastoral address last August, brought the subject prominently to the notice of our

people In respect to the separate and distinct organization of our church, no reasons have appeared to alter our views, as expressed in August last. No proposal of traternal relations has come to us from others, neither do we regard ourselves as in anywise responsible for hostility evinced toward us. While the attempt to take forcible possession of our property and to disintegrate our church, declared the mind that would destroy us, let it be ours to show the mind that was in Christ. In our conscious integrity we should calmly await the inevitable hour when, in the Providence of God, an enlightened public opinion will vindicate our claims as a church of God and a true type of Methodism. Let us not be impatient for the vindication before the world. The great future is before us, and the great head of the church smiles upon us. Our fidelity to God will most perfectly reply to

the voice of defamation. In this connection it is with pleasure that we refer to the fact that many Christians in the North, and especially in the Northwest, sincerely sympathize with us, and this sympathy, we have reason to believe, is daily assuming a more tangible and im-That th sane time, been some defections in the church we care not to disguise. A very tew of the whites have gone from usa This was, perhaps, to have been expected Our regret is rather for them than for our-

But, while we speak of small defections, we may refer also to the most gratifying accessions. The Baltimore annual conference is now represented by a delegation in this body. In February last, Bishop Early formally received into our ecclesiastical connection this conference, consisting of 104 ministers and a membership of 2000. It is a grateful duty to welcome these brethren among us, and to commend them to the confidence and affection of our peo-

ple. This is a large accession to our members and territory. It is also a testimony in our fayor that this is nobly borne by men whose former position and long de iberations upon the subject, as well as their known intelligence, will entitle it to special respect. In our hearts we welcome them and cordially extend the right hand of fel-

As a fact of interest to us and of promise to our future influence, we may state that in the city of Baltimore there have been organized several flourishing churches upan independent basis, composed of Methodists whose warm sympathies are with us, and whose liberal kindness has already contributed largely to aid us in our time of need, laying us under obligations by their love and good works.

Our educational laterests have been greatly damaged by the war, and nearly all of our male institutions have been closed. Providentially, many of our female institutions have been kept in operation, and are still dispensing the blessings of sanctified education to the daughters of our land. Everything in our power should be done to revive as speedily as possible the male institutions under the patronage of our church.

In this connection we specially bring to your attention the importance of an institute for the proper training of young preachers. That we should make some proper arrangement for the more thorough training of our young men before they are received into the conferences and sent forth to minister in the church of Christ, appears to us to be so obvious as to need no argument to prove it. It behooves us to take this matter into serious and immediate consideration, and secure to the church the invaluable advantages the provision we

suggest can only supply.

The instruction of the children under our care, and the interest of our Sabbath school system, cannot be too highly appreciated by you. Your body will, we ore, show your love for these little ones of Christ and lambs of his flock by the practical value of your action in their beharf. We think it unnecessary to enlarge on a point of such obvious and vital concern to the church. Let us remember that it is only by taking care of the children that we can take care of the future prosperity of the church. If we were to judge from the tone of the

religious press, and the action of many of our conferences, great concern is felt in respect to certain changes in our economy. It is obviously unbecoming in us as bishops to occupy any other than an impartial relation to those matters. But we take this occasion to urge upon you the importance of giving these subjects your sober and prayerful consideration. From your extensive observation of the state and wants of the church, we hesitate not to say that some improvement of our econing may be wisely undertaken at this time. Well for us it we can happily avoid extremes and do neither too little nor too much. Let us re-member that while innovations are not necessarily improvements, wisdom may demand in the departments of ecclesiastical expediency new applications and develop- blasting away some rocks on the railroad ments of inndamental principles. The track, came very early in the morning efficiency of Methodism finds its first con-dition in the prevalence of deep spiritual pour oil in his writt-hole, but found it hard efficiency of alethodism the deep spiritual life; and alterations in our economy are frozen over night—she oil having the pecuvaluable as they coincide with this condition, extamitons when they ignore, the water freezing point. The oil was in a On only one of the points suggested gatta-percha flask, and little being leit, the

speak directly, and that Is in respect to fits increase of the number of the bishops for such an increase as will the church a more efficient epis-copacy, we think there is an urgent necessity. The infirmities of age press heavily upon some of us and diminish our ability to answer to the demands of the work of general Episcopal visitation. The great and increasing extent of our territory should be considered. We should by ail means have a bishop, for obvious reasons residing on the Pacific coast. And while we do not recommend a bishop for every State or conference, we are fully persuaded that the number of bishops should be so inshould engage your serious attention. creased as to enable them to be pastors of the people as well as chairmen of conferthe people as well as chairmen of conferences and pastors of the preachers. If we would carry out the invaluable plan of our

others, notwithstanding extraneous influ-ences and unkind misrepresentations of our vate and selfish impulses, humbly invoking that wisdom that is from above, which the glory of God; let us endeavor to do our duty here as ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ, praying God that we may have grace to edify the church, that we may rejoice that we have not labored in vain it the Lord.

J. O. ANDREW.

ROBT. PAINE. JOHN EARLY. H. H. KAVANAUGH.

The Explosion at San Francisco-Nitro-Glycerine, or Blusting Oil -A Daugerous New Chemical Compound.

[From the New York Herald.] The frightful disaster which occurred on the 16th April in or near the office of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, in the city of San Francisco, killing instantly fifteen to tweny persons, and dreadfully injuring many others, destroying nearly a whole block of buildings, and resulting in a damage of nore than two hundred thousand dollars, beyond any doubt, the result of the exolosion of nitro-glycerine, or blasting oil. According to information taken here (in New York), the Superintendent of a New York mining company, whose office was in the building No. 26 Pine street, where also the office of the New York Nitro-Glycerine or Blasting Oll Company is situated, had sent, some weeks ago, to San Francisco, by the Pacific Mail Company, several boxes of nitro-glycerine, weighing about two hundred pounds, imported from the factory of Mr. Altred Nobel, of Hamburg, Germany.

It was intended to sell this oil to the mining companies in Nevada, Idaho and olorado, the lumense exploding power of he new chemical compound offering great dvantages, not only in the saving of labor of drill holes, but also in treight, because one pound of this blasting oil does the same destructive work as twelve to fitteen pounds of common blasting gunpowder. The Herald was the first paper which called the public attention to this wonderful and dangerous invention, on the occa-

sion of the Wyoming Hotel (Greenwich street) explosion, which took place on the ith of November, 1865. The writer of the Herald article, giving a chemical analysis of the compound, exposed the great dangers which could, under "certain circumstances," result from the transport and storage of this really "demoniac oil." He pointed out the dangers of shipping this explosive" by the European steamers or emigrant vessels, showing that one pound, exploded by some unforseen accid board of a two thousand ton vessel, would tear the vessel to pieces, and that if a cargo of fifty or one hundred pounds should explode on board the greatest ship, with all her freight, and hundreds of living beings, would disappear from the surface of the cean, not leaving a wreck to testify to the destruction, or a human soul to tell the sad story.

The blood stirs if we think that the two hundred pounds sent by the Pacific mail steamer had exploded during the sea age, tearing to pieces and burying in the wayes the seven or eight hundred passengers on board. And could not the accident which look place at the freight office of Wells & Fargo's Company, in San Francisco, without any apparent cause, have happened quite as well on board of the steamer which carried the dangerous and mysterious freight?

The inventor and patentee of the demon-iac compound, Mr. Aifred Nobel, a Swedish engineer, answered our article on the oming Hotel accident, in a very good-hu mored letter, stating that, according to numerous experiments he and hundreds of miners and engineers had made, his oil was without danger of self-ignition, and would even not take fire if in contact with a burning match, requiring for ignition a special ignitor, also the Invention of the patentee. But he seemed to ignore that a new chemical compound may be subject to quite unforseen chemical influences, under which it may change its character completely; influences of which science cannot think or dream of, and which only long years of experiments can bring to light. It may be decomposed by a constant contact with the tin cases or the glass bottles in which it is transported, or by the intense heat in a ship's hulk in tropical climates; it may be affected by other chemicals, or chemical vapors of goods stored in the neighborhood. Even the manufacture of this kind of chemical compounds is subject to accidents and eircumstances quite beyond the control of the manufacturer.

In the small city of Bochum, in one of the coal districts of Westphalia, Germany, a storekeeper kept for sale to the miners some stock of Nobel's nitro-glycerine-One morning a miner came to buy two pounds, and brought with him a tin can, to carry it, the glass bottles in which it was sold being inconvenient for him. The clerk opened the bottles, and poured the oil into the tin can; but, lo, in the same moment it exploded, tearing to pieces the poor clerk, killing the miner and destroying the store. The Prussian Government appointed mmission to investigate the matter, and it was found that the tin can contained turpentine oil, and that turpentine oil in contact with nitro-glycerine possibly would occasion a sudden explosion. Singularly enough, the accident inspected on the same day that the Wyoming Hotel accident took place in this city. Near Glatz, in the Prussian province of

Silesia, a laborer, who was occupied in do we regard it becoming in our position to lunfortunate workman cut open the

and took a hatchet to cut a piece of the frozen oil. The moment the hatchet touched the frozen lump it exploded, kill-ing instantly the poor man, whose limbs were scattered in fragments, and found two miles distant from the place where the ac-

ident happened. These and many other similar accidents which might be stated, prove that Nobel's oil is really not quite so innocent as the in-ventor alleges, but, on the contrary, very dangerous to meddle with.

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Plans and speech along can be sen at his disc on and after the first day of day, 1863. But will be received for excavation, store masonry, ories massure, expenser work and platering sparately, or for the entire work. This is due to be concarned for by the perch, the brisk by the thousand, the excavation by the varie the Commissioners reserving the right to reject any or all of the bids.

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20,000, more or less, Halding Brisk,
20,000, more or less, Pawing and Sawerage Brick,
10 barrels, more or less, Linseed Oir,
2 barrels Bengols,
2,000 lbs., more or less, White Lead,
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